The Berrien House Old Rocky Hill Road Rocky Hill, Somerset County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

HABS N.J. 18- ROHI

The Berrien House Old Rocky Hill Road Rocky Hill, Somerset County, New Jersey

Owner: Ers. Laura B. Moment

Date of Erection: 1740-1750

Architect:

Builders: Poter Berrien - (Probable builder of wing) Hendrick Berrien (probable builder of Main House)

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior valls - frame con-

struction

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick and stone chimneys

Roof - pitch

Mistorical Data:

It is possible that the old wing of this house was built by Peter Ferrien, Jr., the younger brother of Judge John Borrien of Rockingham (MJ-18), whose dates are 1714-1781. The Berrien family is believed to be of French origin, Mugenots; however, the first of the American family had the very Dutch name of Cornelius Jansen Berrien. He settled at Flatbrook, Long Island about 1669. One of his children was Peter who was born in 1672 and married in 1706. John and Peter, Jr., were his children; both came to Somerset County, Peter settled at Ten Nile Run where he had a large

tract which ran down toward the Millstone River. One of the six children of Peter, Jr., was Henry, 1743-1806. A search of Somerset County records reveals that a Hendrick Berrien was the owner prior to 1811. This Hendrick is the same person mentioned in the will of Peter Berrien in 1781 as his son Henry. Further proof of this is contained in an inventory sworn at Bridgewater in 1806 where the name is spelt both Hennery and Hendrick. In the deed recorded at Somerville on May 4, 1811 John Berrien et als transferred the property to Peter Berrien. All of the people involved were the heirs of Hendrick Berrien.

Prom Peter Berrien the property passed to Peter Pumyea and Anna his wife in 1854. Anna was the daughter of Peter Berrien. We find that in the division of the property after Peter J. Pumyea's death the section with the house passed into the possession of John Pumyea. Just exactly when it passed out of the Berrien-Pumyea family is difficult to say, but in March, 1925, the Sheriff of Somerset County sold the property to Menry V. Condict, and there is mention in this sale of a mortgage made to John Pumyea which was still unsatisfied. From Cendict the property passed to James Cortelyou who sold off the section with the house in 1927 to the present owner.

Both sections of the house are old, but the ming on the east side is pre-revolutionary. The main part of the house was probably built by mondrick Borrien. There is a Dutch oven extending outside the house attached to the wing; it is one of the few examples still existing.

## Bibliography:

Bailey, Rosalic F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, William Horrow and Company, 1936

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A search of Somerset County court records

Search of records in the office of the Secretary of State, Trenton, by Robert M. Falcey, Mercer County office

Approved:

ELYNOUR WILLIAMS, District Officer

reviewed Man, 1939 - SP)